

reserved, and the Senate then resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1932 as under the previous order. I further ask consent that there be 10 minutes for each leader prior to the vote on the final action on S. 1932.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. I further ask consent that following the disposition of S. 1932, there then be 1 hour of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees for debate only and that following that time the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2863, the Defense appropriations bill; provided further that the live quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow we are moving to finish our final business. We have several critical matters to dispose of before we break for the holidays, and there will be, as we said earlier, a series of rollcall votes on the deficit reduction conference report starting sometime around 9:15 in the morning. Senators should be prepared for votes throughout the day on the deficit reduction bill, the remaining appropriations conference reports, and other legislative and executive matters which must be disposed of before we adjourn.

Again, as we have said earlier, Senators should stay close to the Chamber throughout the day. It will be a very busy day, and I thank all of my colleagues in advance for their patience. I know this is a very challenging time of year as we juggle planning for the holidays, constituent work, as well as completing our business here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent in the hour that has been specified for debate following disposition of S. 1932 that the 30 minutes under the control of the Democrats be divided as follows: 2 minutes each for Senators FEINGOLD and BOXER, 3 minutes each for Senators BINGAMAN and LIEBERMAN; that Senator BYRD be extended 7½ minutes; Senator CANTWELL would have 12½ minutes under her control. That uses our 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Louisiana be given 20 minutes, after which I will come back and close.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Louisiana is recognized for 20 minutes.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, we do have some important work to finish to-

morrow. That is why I thought I would spend a few minutes tonight reminding my colleagues of a very significant part of that work.

Before I came to work this morning, I spent a little time with our two children, our 8-year-old precious little angel girl, Mary Shannon, and our 12-year-old little boy. We spent some time at breakfast, and then we started doing what a lot of families do around this holiday, and that is listen to some Christmas music and some holiday music and wrap a few gifts that they had actually, amazingly picked out themselves for their Kris Kringles. We talked about how important it was going to be to see family over the holidays. As they struggled to wrap the gifts, with their tape and their scissors, we tried to spend a little family time together before I came to work today.

It reminded me of how simple but wonderfully special those moments are with families at this time of year, as moms and dads make their regular cookies and traditional dinners and recipes and wrap packages the same way and decorate the trees the same way and put out the nativity scenes. And all over the country that is happening.

There is one place that that is not happening the way it usually does and that is along the gulf coast of this country, and particularly in Louisiana.

About 3 months ago, two fierce storms hit our coast. We basically survived through the night, only to wake up the next morning and find the levees had broken, and 200,000-plus homes and 18,000 businesses were destroyed literally in a matter of a few hours.

The devastation was so great and so expansive and so unprecedented that it has literally taken the Nation and this Congress and even officials in the region, major business operations in the region, 3 months or more to actually realize the extent of the devastation.

I have spent a lot of time on the Senate floor with my colleague, Senator VITTER, showing pictures and graphs to try to explain what actually happened. This one isn't fancy. It is simple, but it is pretty clear. When we come down here to try to explain how much help the people of Louisiana need, the people of Mississippi, and to some extent a little bit in Alabama and Texas because of two killer storms, Katrina and Rita, and the multiple levee breaks that ensued, one figure that helped my staff and our people to understand is this chart that shows Hurricane Andrew as the most expensive storm ever to hit the coast of the United States in 1992. They are still recovering from it in Florida.

In that massive storm, 28,000 homes were destroyed—28,000, in Homestead, FL, and in places around. People are still living in trailers after 10-plus, 14 years.

But I have to show my colleagues right here, in Katrina, 3 months ago, a storm and levee break came through and around 275,000 homes, 10 times the

amount of Hurricane Andrew, 10 times the amount of destruction.

I was sitting in my home just a few blocks from here with my children this morning, with three rolls of wrapping paper and a couple of pairs of scissors. And, thank goodness, we could find the Scotch tape which is always a challenge when you are wrapping gifts. I had to close my eyes and think about my mother's house that is not occupied now after 45 years of raising 9 children and 37 grandchildren. It had 7 feet of water in it.

And my sisters and our friends and people from all walks of life, rich and poor, Black and White, senior citizens and moms and dads who are looking forward to having their children and grandchildren with them, there are no homes to wrap these gifts or to put the tree or to hang the lights.

I just came tonight to tell my colleagues that while this bill looks like just sort of a regular package of lots of words and lines and fine print, what is in one of these bills tomorrow is a package of hope for the 275,000 families who lived in those homes that were completely destroyed—not a roof damaged, not a porch falling over, not a few steps missing but homes completely destroyed.

I want to show you what a home completely destroyed looks like; 275,000 homes along the gulf coast look something like this. Some of them look worse.

This picture was in the National Geographic a couple of weeks ago. This is what the homes along the gulf coast look like.

That is why I am not going home this Christmas while we will be working as many hours and days as it takes until people like this have some hope that they can get back to their home. It is not just Christmas, which would be impossible in this situation, but at least by next Christmas.

I am going to say again, for the one-hundredth time, FEMA is not sufficient to get us back to our homes, to build our churches again, to rebuild our schools and to rebuild our communities. It is an insufficient mechanism, and on its best day it could not accomplish this goal.

In this package tomorrow in the Defense appropriations bill, because of political concerns of the Congress, we find our \$29 billion hope package in there that finally moves money from an agency that can't manage to spend it well into the hands of competent local officials and local entities and private businesses and faith-based organizations and individual Americans who show a lot of grit and a lot of heart to build their State and their community again.

We are not going home without the hope package. It is not fair and America can do better.

This is what the inside of many homes in New Orleans looks like because the water was so high in many of our neighborhoods, even neighborhoods